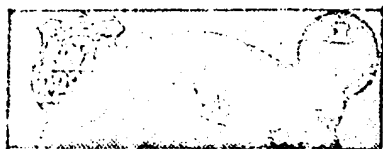


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Some Clear Questions; Some Not So Clear



Why Did CIA Train Police?

More than 25 years ago, fearful of the designs of the Soviet Union, Congress authorized the creation of the Central Intelligence Agency. But Congress was also concerned about the designs of the agency, itself, and the National Security Act of 1947 specifically provided that the C.I.A. "shall have no police, subpoena, law enforcement or internal security functions."

Last week, the C.I.A. acknowledged that during the last two years policemen from about one dozen domestic police departments have received "briefings" on a variety of subjects—including the processing of intelligence information, security devices and procedures and the techniques of detecting explosives.

The acknowledgement came in response to an inquiry from Representative Edward I. Koch about a press account last December that 14 New York policemen—including the second highest official in the department—had undergone training by the agency in the storage, filing and retrieval of intelligence data.

The agency said it did not feel the training sessions "violate the letter or spirit" of the 1947 Act. The sessions, it argued, were entirely consistent with the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 which called upon the Justice Department and "other civilian or military agencies or instrumentalities" of the Federal Government to help state and local agencies fight crime.

Mr. Koch, a Democrat-Liberal with Mayoral ambitions, disagreed. In a letter to the chairman of the House Government Operations Committee and the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Constitutional Rights, he said the C.I.A.'s excursion into local law enforcement was a clear violation of law and should be investigated.

Meanwhile, apparently goaded by Mr. Koch's critical comments and by a pending suit brought in Federal court which challenged the constitutionality of many New York City police intelligence activities, Commissioner Patrick V. Murphy announced that the names of more than a million persons and organizations had

been purged from the files and new restriction had been established over the collection and dissemination of such material in the future.

New guidelines were imposed by Commissioner Murphy on what is believed to be one of the most extensive intelligence gathering groups in the United States—a 1972 roster has 361 policemen assigned to the Intelligence Bureau. The changes point up the degree of top-level control that had been maintained over these activities.

From now on, undercover policemen can be assigned to infiltrate such groups as the Black Panthers and the Students for a Democratic Society only if approved by the "First Deputy Commissioner or his special designee."

From now on, intelligence investigations can be initiated only with the specific approval of the Police Commissioner and three designated assistants.

From now on, Mr. Murphy said, the political beliefs or preferences of any potential "object of an investigation shall not, of itself, be justification for the initiation of an investigation."

The Commissioner, who said that as far as he knew New York was the first local or state police agency to develop written guidelines, insisted there was a legitimate and absolute need for the Department to gather intelligence. "However, there is always the possibility that some police practices may infringe on individual rights. The line between public and private interest is so fine that any system which is required to collect information about individuals and groups is susceptible to such infringement."

—DAVID BURNHAM

Answers

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